

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

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IO-10 SAJ-01 /068 W

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FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 415

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY UNN

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

CINCEUR PRIORITY

CINCUSAFE

CINCUSAREUR

USELMLO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 168

CINCEUR FOR POLAD AND OPS

CINCUSAFE FOR POLAD AND OPS AND INC

CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD, OPS, AEAGC-COC & AEAAG-AP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, WB, US, UK, UR, FR

SUBJECT: SOVIET REQUEST RE INTERFLUG FLIGHT IN

BERLIN CONTROL ZONE (BCZ)

REF: BERLIN A-221, 24 SEP 73

1. SOVIET CHIEF CONTROLLER IN BASC JAN 28 MADE

FOLLOWING ORAL STATEMENT TO US CHIEF CONTROLLER:

QUOTE IN CONNECTION WITH THE REQUIRED PRODUCTION OF
AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY OF THE GDR CAPITAL IN THE MARZAHN

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AND BIESDORF REGIONS, MY COMMAND REQUEST A FLIGHT

SAFETY GUARANTEE FOR FLIGHTS OF AN INTERFLUG AIRCRAFT AT ALTITUDES OF FROM 1100-3200 METERS IN THE BERLIN CONTROL ZONE. A REQUEST FOR THE FLIGHT WILL BE GIVEN AHEAD OF TIME BY THE SOVIET DUTY CONTROLLER TO THE AMERICAN CONTROLLER IN THE USUAL MANNER. FROM MY SIDE, I ASK YOU TO GIVE YOUR ATTENTION TO THE GUARANTEE OF FLIGHT SAFETY FOR THE INTERFLUG AIRCRAFT IN THEIR BERLIN CONTROL ZONE FROM THE STANDPOINT OF THE BERLIN CENTER'S CONTROL OF AIR TRAFFIC. UNQUOTE.

2. SOVIET CHIEF ADDED THAT FLIGHTS WOULD BE MADE DURING ONE-TWO DAY PERIOD FROM JAN 28 TO FEB 5.

3. AREA OF PROPOSED INTERLUG FLIGHTS OVERLAPS SLIGHTLY TEMPELHOF APPROACH PATTERN. BARTCC HAS TECHNICAL CAPABILITY, THROUGH USE OF CLASSIFIED RADAR FACILITY, OF INSURING THAT ALLIED AIRCRAFT IN TEMPELHOF PATTERN WOULD NOT BE ENDANGERED BY PROPOSED INTERFLUG FLIGHT HOWEVER, PREFERRED OPERATION

HANDLING OF SUCH POTENTIAL AIR TRAFFIC OVERLAPS INCLUDES CONSTANT RADIO CONTACT BETWEEN BARTCC AND AIRCRAFT CONCERNED. SUCH RADIO CONTACT IMPORTANT IN ESTABLISHING ALTITUDE, WHICH IS PARTICULARLY RELEVANT IN THIS CASE WHERE INTERFLUG FLIGHTS WOULD BE OPERATING AT ALTITUDES RANGING FROM 3,000 TO 10,000 FEET.

4. ON OCCASION ALLIES HAVE REFRAINED FROM FLIGHTS IN CERTAIN AREAS OF BCZ AT SOVIET REQUEST, SUCH AS DURING BREZHNEV VISIT EAST BERLIN OCT 1975, BUT WE DO NOT BELIEVE WE SHOULD RESTRICT BOTH LOCAL AND IGS TRAFFIC IN SIZEABLE SLICE OF BCZ DURING LENGTHY PERIODS MENTIONED BY SOVIET CHIEF. TO DO SO WOULD SET PRECEDENT WHICH COULD BE EXPLOITED TO OUR DISADVANTAGE. ON TWO OCCASIONS IN 1973 SOVIETS INFORMED US IN ADVANCE ABOUT SHORT LOW-LEVEL GDR HELICOPTER FLIGHTS (REF AIRGRAM). WE REPLIED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEMS. SOVIETS DID NOT ASK US THEN FOR FORMAL GUARANTEES FOR FLIGHT SAFETY.

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5. BELIEVE IT TO ALLIED ADVANTAGE TO SEEK TO OBTAIN SOVIET AGREEMENT TO CONDUCTING INTERFLUG FLIGHTS UNDER BARTCC CONTROL AS MEANS OF FURTHER LEGITIMIZING AND EXPANDING ROLE OF BARTCC AND BASC IN BERLIN AIR MATTERS AND FOR OPERATIONAL REASONS CITED ABOVE. ACCORDINGLY, WE PROPOSE PROMPT ALLIED RESPONSE WHICH WOULD INSIST ON CONDITION THAT INTERFLUG FLIGHTS BE CONDUCTED UNDER

BARTCC CONTROL. RESPONSE WOULD BE ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

QUOTE WITH REGARD TO YOUR STATEMENT OF JAN 28, I AM AUTHORIZED ON BEHALF OF THE WESTERN AUTHORITIES TO STATE THAT A GUARANTEE OF FLIGHT SAFETY CAN BE MADE FOR THE PROPOSED INTERFLUG FLIGHTS OVER THE MARZAHN AND BIESDORF REGIONS OF BERLIN AT ALTITUDES OF 1100-3200 METERS PROVIDED THAT CONSTANT RADIO CONTACT IS MAINTAINED BETWEEN THE BERLIN CENTER (BARTCC) AND THE INTERFLUG AIRCRAFT ON AN APPROPRIATE FREQUENCY, AS SUGGESTED IN THE LAST SENTENCE OF YOUR STATEMENT. UNQUOTE.

6. COMMENT: IT IS UNLIKELY THAT SOVIETS WILL AGREE TO MAINTAINING RADIO CONTACT WITH BARTCC, PARTICULARLY SINCE THEY HAVE ALREADY COME CLOSE TO FLAT NO WHEN BRITISH CONTROLLER, IN TOTALLY UNAUTHORIZED PROBE, SUGGESTED THAT POSSIBILITY. HOWEVER, TO GUARANTEE FLIGHT SAFETY WHEN SOVIETS/GDR ARE UNWILLING TO USE TECHNICAL MEANS TO ASSURE US WHERE AIRCRAFT IS AT ALL TIMES STRIKES US AS TOTALLY GRATUITOUS CONCESSION. IF SOVIETS REJECT OUR CONDITION, FLIGHTS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY TAKE PLACE ANYWAY AND BARTCC WOULD ENSURE THROUGH ITS CLASSIFIED RADAR FACILITY THAT TEMPELHOF TRAFFIC IS NOT ENDANGERED. THERE IS ALSO SOME CHANGE THAT SOVIETS MIGHT MEET US HALFWAY-- PERHAPS BY AGREEING THAT FLIGHTS WILL TAKE PLACE ONLY AT TIMES WHEN TEMPELHOF AIR TRAFFIC IS AT LOW POINT AND WEATHER IS CLEAR.

7. WE ARE CONSULTING ALLIES AND WILL REPORT THEIR REACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. ALTHOUGH WE FEEL STRONGLY THAT WE SHOULD NOT PLACE OURSELVES UNDER EXTREME TIME PRESSURE TO RESPOND TO SOVIET REQUESTS FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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MAPPING FLIGHTS WHICH CAN UNDOUBTEDLY BE POSTPONED, WE MUST RECKON WITH POSSIBILITY THAT SOVIETS/GDR WILL SIMPLY GO AHEAD WITH FLIGHTS UNLESS WE CAN RESPOND REASONABLY QUICKLY-- FOR EXAMPLE BY END OF WEEK. DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY GUIDANCE IS THEREFORE REQUESTED ON URGENT BASIS.

8. USCOB CONCURS. GEORGE

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NNN

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